

## STANDARD OIL WORKERS GET 8-HOUR DAY

### Directors Vote Change Affecting 7,500 Men, at Brief Meeting

## ALL SUBSIDIARIES MAY FOLLOW SUIT

### Employees in Bayonne, Baltimore and West Virginia Win by Decree.

## WAGES REMAIN SAME

### Action, Unexpected by Labor Men, Comes After Attack by Federal Investigators.

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey conceded the eight-hour day to its workmen yesterday. The announcement was made after a special meeting of the board of directors at 26 Broadway. The New Jersey company is the parent, and most powerful, in the Standard Oil group, and it is believed all the subsidiaries of the vast organization will follow its example.

In labor circles the action of the company was heralded as a great victory. It was considered the surrender of the last and greatest opposing force in the labor battle throughout the country for better working conditions, including the forty-eight hour weekly schedule. Labor leaders saw an easy victory for the eight-hour day in other parts of the country where it has not already been granted. Looking back to the pitched battles in the strike at the plant of the Standard Oil Company in Bayonne in July, in which several strikers were killed, they rated the gain to labor worth even what it cost in human life. The men returned to the Jersey company plants with higher wages as a result of the July strike, and with the adoption of the eight-hour day their leaders feel they have reaped their full reward. This is especially so, because the Standard Oil Company had maintained a settled policy of refusing to deal with any labor organization.

Will Not Affect Wages.

The important announcement by the company was brief, merely stating it desired to keep its wages and working conditions equal to those of other workmen doing a similar class of work. The change will not affect the wage scale. The announcement in full was as follows:

"In accordance with the policy of this company to keep its wages and working conditions equal to or in advance of the work and working conditions of other men doing a similar class of work, it has been decided to adopt the eight-hour day. The change will be made without loss to the men. It will be necessary to make certain changes in present methods of conducting the plants. The eight-hour day will become effective on September 15, and notices have been posted to that effect in the various plants."

The meeting of the board of directors had not been previously announced except to the directors themselves. The statement was given out some time after the directors had left by H. K. McCann, an advertising agent, at his office, 61 Broadway. It was said that a majority of the directors were present at the meeting. The first impression gained by the announcement was that all the various subsidiary companies of the Standard Oil group, employing between 25,000 and 30,000 men, would be affected.

Chester O. Swain, general solicitor of the company, corrected this impression. He said the present action affected only the plants of the New Jersey company, at Bayonne, Parkersburg, W. Va., and Baltimore. He said they employed about 7,500 men. He refused to comment on the possibility of the thirty-three subsidiary companies, formed as the result of the dissolution of the parent company by the government following the exam and adopting the eight-hour day.

Attacked in Federal Report.

None of the officials of the company was accessible last night. John D. Archbold is president. The other officials are A. C. Bedford, F. M. Bedford and Frederick W. Waller, vice-presidents; Charles T. White, secretary, and A. C. Bedford, treasurer. The directors are J. D. Archbold, Walter Jennings, George P. West and C. T. Cheney, said in a report.

The action of the company would appear more in the light of a "surrender" to the labor cause, in view of the recent drastic report made by the investigators of the Bayonne strike for the United States Commission on Industrial Relations. This report, made by George P. West and C. T. Cheney, said in a report.

"The company is the most important of the Standard Oil group, and this group is the principal contributor to the wealth, prestige and power of the largest estate in the country, if not in the world—that of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his immediate family. The company is, therefore, regarded as of special significance, because of the tremendous power wielded by the

## "Some Would Have Killed Him," Mrs. Mohr Lets Slip

### Widow of Murdered Doctor, Whom She Calls an Illegal Practitioner, Describes Abuse from Him—Bothered Us to Shoot Him, Say Negroes.

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.]  
Providence, Sept. 3.—"If some women had had to put up with what I did, they would have killed him years ago." These words slipped half involuntarily from the lips of Mrs. Elizabeth Tiffany Blair Mohr, while waiting to be arraigned in the Bristol County Court-house, at Barrington. She was referring to her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, who was murdered Tuesday night and buried this afternoon, from his home, 582 Elmwood Avenue.

A police official heard the remark. Engaging in conversation with Mr. Mohr, he obtained a detailed history of the wrongs she had suffered from the physician, for whose death she is held indirectly responsible.

Mrs. Mohr was very frank. She told of her struggle to save money that her husband might discontinue a questionable practice that brought him in an income of \$40,000 a year. It was hard, she said, to support herself and two children on \$100 a month, the amount that came to her from the physician's enormous income. She tried to influence young women to discontinue their consultations with her husband; she stuck by him, although he occasionally beat her; she endured it all because she loved him and was confident that she could be reconciled with him in happy married life.

Negro Insists on Plot.

Not more than half an hour after Mrs. Mohr finished a dramatic recital of her marital woes, Henry Spellman, one of the three negroes held for the actual murder of Dr. Mohr, talked to police

officials. And this is what he said about the widow of the murdered man:

"She gave me \$5 some time ago, sent me down to Newport and told me not to come back until I had killed him."

Cecil Victor Brown, the motorcycle companion of Spellman when the shots were fired on a lonely bit of road near Nyatt, backed up Henry in every detail. "She sent us both down to Newport and was wild when we came back without killing him. She finally told us that if we did not kill him she would kill him herself and we wouldn't get anything. Whenever we were short of cash we went to her and she had to come to the doctor, because she hoped we would deliver the goods."

More amazing than these statements, which are entirely outside the confessions signed by the three negroes yesterday, is their allegation that Mrs. Mohr went without the necessities of life—even permitted her weekly milk bills to go unpaid—that she might use all her money to egg them on to commit the crime for which they are now held. It was only recently, as their confessions show, that she is alleged to have hit on the scheme of paying them \$5,000 from the proceeds of her husband's estate.

Tak. Mrs. Mohr's assertion of her absolute innocence for her remark that some women would have killed a husband like her long ago is not regarded as a confession by the police; the assertion of the negroes that she should have put Dr. Mohr out of the way some time ago, and then add that the widow was chief mourner at the grave of her murdered husband this afternoon, and you have a few of the outstanding puzzles that complicate a murder which bids fair to rank with the Carman case in New York.

Although she did not enter the house

Continued on page 3, column 2

## SCANDAL CAUSES ANNAPOLIS CHANGES

### New Examination System Planned—Fullam on Sea Duty.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]  
Washington, Sept. 3.—Radical changes in the organization of the Naval Academy at Annapolis are contemplated as a result of the "gouging" scandal which recently resulted in the dismissal of two midshipmen, the disciplining of a dozen others and the removal of the superintendent, Rear Admiral Fullam. Secretary Daniels said today he was having a thorough study made of the defects in the old system which underlay the disgraces of the last year.

Private institutions, including many prominent colleges and universities, have been asked to submit detailed outlines of their examination systems for the guidance of the Navy Department, and an effort will be made to bring the academy into line with the best systems in use among American collegiate institutions.

Secretary Daniels received a telegram from Rear Admiral Fullam today expressing his satisfaction with his new assignment and requesting a brief leave before reporting for duty with the Pacific reserve fleet. The Secretary said Admiral Fullam asked at the time of his promotion to sea duty, and that his transfer from the superintendency of the Naval Academy is in line with this request.

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## FAITHFUL SERVICE WINS HIM \$43,000

### Franz Schriber Also Gets Year's Salary in Will of Mrs. Dater.

Franz Schriber, of Paris, is rewarded for his twenty-five years' service in the household of Mrs. Mary C. S. Dater by a bequest of \$40,000 and a year's salary at \$200 a month, in the will of his former employer, filed yesterday in the Surrogates' Court. Mr. William F. N. O'Laughlin, a friend of Mrs. Dater, received \$10,000. Mrs. Dater left an estate estimated at \$180,000, of which the residue is left to Henry Dater, nephew, and Harriet Amelia McLean, Annie Josephine Gruner and Laura Dater Chapman, nieces.

The new specific bequests of \$10,000 each, Hannah A. Dater receives a picture by Meyer von Bremen, and a landscape of the "Grundewald" at Charlotte Dater Gruner, to whom the testatrix also gave an emerald and diamond ring. A diamond and emerald bracelet is left to the wife of Henry Dater.

HINDENBURG HUNTS DEER.

Interrupts Russian Stalking to Indulge in Pet Sport.

Berlin, Sept. 3.—Although he is conducting the greatest campaign of history, Field Marshal von Hindenburg found time this week to take a day off for his favorite sport of deer stalking. He arrived Monday evening at Schippenbell, in East Prussia, near his two great battles—those of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes.

Accompanied by Prince Dohna-Schloden and Count Dohna, the Field Marshal hunted in the forest of the Countess of Eulenburg and killed two fine stags.

## ANTI-BRITISH CRUSADE ON Friends of Peace to Protest Against America's Subservience

The much advertised "crusade" of the Friends of Peace "to wrest America from English influence" began yesterday, when 1,100 delegates from New York City left for the convention in Chicago.

The Friends of Peace have discovered Rutledge Rutherford, press agent for the New York branch says, "that Americans are in reality British subjects, that we have due a \$400,000,000 debt, that we have sold England, and that we stand in the greatest danger of being plunged into war at England's command."

William Jennings Bryan will address the delegates to-day.

## MEXICANS FIRE ON U. S. TROOPS AND AEROPLANE

### 100 Shots Sent Across the Border at Aviator Flying Over Brownsville.

## FOUR MORE BANDITS SLAIN IN TEXAS

### Carranza Is Told Signatures to Pan-American Peace Appeal Are Official.

Brownsville, Tex., Sept. 3.—Mexicans on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande late today fired nearly a hundred shots at an American army aeroplane flying over Brownsville. They then turned their guns against a squad of American soldiers on guard at the Brownsville electric light plant.

When the firing started the soldiers got behind shelter and returned the fire. There were no casualties.

Four Mexican bandits killed by American troops, a Mexican woman shot to death by United States soldiers and pursuit by Mexican marauders who murdered two Americans were other stirring features to-day of the guerrilla warfare that is raging along the border while the Pan-American conferees are striving to bring about peace in Mexico.

The killing of three bandits occurred at Los Guatos, fourteen miles north of Brownsville. The shooting of the woman was unintentional. She had been deserted by her husband when outlaws appeared at their home, north of here, and she started for the soldiers' camp for protection. Approaching the camp in the darkness, she was mistaken for a bandit and was fired on and killed.

A detachment of the 12th United States Cavalry early to-night had a short fight with four Mexican bandits, one of whom was killed and the three others captured, about twelve miles north of here. None of the cavalrymen was injured. The prisoners were taken to San Benito.

The search for the bandits who killed Earl Donaldson, of Fayette, Mo., a farmer, and J. H. Smith, engine driver, yesterday was pursued with vigor. The troops were spread out in a line that left no foot of the international boundary unpatrolled. If the fifteen remaining members of the band made any effort to ford the swollen Rio Grande to Mexico and safety.

Citizens Join in Pursuit.

In addition to the soldiers there were hundreds of citizens, headed by Texas Rangers, who pursued the trail of the Mexicans to avenge the thefts of cattle, burning of barns, terrifying of women and the deaths of half a dozen United States citizens.

The tactics of the Mexicans yesterday led army officers to believe that the band was responsible for much of the outlaws of the last several weeks in border counties. First by burning the road, then by the capture of a rancher, then by the burning of a pumping station and an automobile twelve miles north of here and capped the day with the kidnapping of Donaldson, Smith and Stanley Dodd, a contractor. Dodd was unharmful by the Mexicans, who apparently thought he was a German.

Smith and Donaldson were murdered. "Early yesterday I left San Benito for a pumping plant I am building six miles from that place. I was accompanied by three Mexican workmen. We arrived at the plant soon after 7 o'clock and were working in a pit, when suddenly five Mexican bandits came up and covered us with their guns. I quickly pulled one of my Mexican workmen in front of me. Other-wise I probably would have been shot on the spot. As the bandits took Smith, I quickly pulled myself out of the pit. Earl Donaldson drove up in a wagon. He was building a home near by. The Mexicans halted him, unhitched his team and left the wagon in the road.

Discussed Disposition of Prisoners.

"Then the Mexicans began a discussion as to what they should do with us. For me they discussed several hours. For Smith and Donaldson it was not so long.

"After the bandits had escorted us a short distance down the banks of a canal I was ordered to one side. By this time several other members of the band had joined the first comers. I saw a gun was leveled in my direction, but I caught hold of a Mexican, who appeared to be some sort of an officer in the band, and pushed him in front of me.

Smith called out: 'Goodby, Dodd, I don't see you again.' Then he and Donaldson were led off into the brush. They were lost to my view, but I heard two rifle shots, quickly followed by three more. Evidently Donaldson tried to run, for his body was found thirty feet from Smith's. I think the Mexicans wanted me to attempt escape, because, apparently, they did not want me closely.

"That I did not meet Donaldson's and Smith's fate, I believe, was due to the fact that the Mexican band leader, before he went down, and was picked up by the Danish motor ship Australia. There was no loss of life on any of the vessels sunk."

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## 40 BATTLESHIPS STILL THE GOAL OF NAVY EXPERTS

### Big Fighting Craft Regarded as Proved Mistress of the Seas.

## SCOUT CRUISERS ALSO CALLED FOR

### Many Submarines To Be Included in Defence Recommendations to President.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]  
Washington, Sept. 3.—The forty battleship ideal adopted as the programme of the Naval Board several years ago will continue to be the goal of the board, Secretary of the Navy Daniels made plain to-day in answer to inquiries as to what would be his recommendations to the President.

There will be no swerving from this goal because of the prominence the submarine has achieved as a factor in naval warfare. Naval experts hold that the big fighting ship is still the mistress of the seas, and they point to the fact that few battleships have been sunk by submarines so far in the European war except when they were bombarding forts in an effort to aid in a land battle, as at the Dardanelles.

Just how many battleships would be recommended Secretary Daniels would not say, although it is believed he will ask for not fewer than three Dreadnoughts. In addition to this, it was taken from comments made by the Secretary, the board will recommend several battle cruisers or scout cruisers. The Secretary discussed at length the importance of these big, fast, but lightly armored ships, which carry guns equal to those of the Dreadnought, but which can run away from the heavier vessels.

Hints at Faster Dreadnoughts.

Even the Dreadnought, the Secretary thought, might eventually be modified so as to give her greater speed, even at the sacrifice of protective armor. It was recalled that nearly all of the naval experts were a unit last year in holding that if only two big ships were to be built they should be battle cruisers, since this country had not one such ship. Not a big ship in the American navy, it was pointed out, could have run away from the Bluecher, and the big, speedy German cruiser could have sunk any smaller vessel in the American navy with her heavy guns. Yet three British battle cruisers, all possessing greater speed and heavier guns than the Bluecher, were able to scatter her to the bottom because of their superiority. The fact that two at least of the pursuers were severely injured is not regarded as diminishing the importance of the lesson.

The big fast cruiser, which the board will recommend, it is stated, will be equipped with at least 14-inch guns, naval ordnance experts believing that this type of gun is better than the larger guns of the Bluecher, and that the British navy, having greater piercing power and effectiveness.

That a large number of submarines will be asked for goes without saying, and this little craft have shown their effectiveness.

Interest as to the size of the navy eventually was caused to-day by the remarks of President Wilson about the Secretary Daniels consulting with men who are to recommend the policy which will be in the future in order to stand upon an equality with the most efficient navies of the world.

For Congress to Say.

When asked whether this meant that the United States should have a navy second to none, even England, Secretary Daniels said that the policy would be determined by Congress.

Secretary of War Garrison is understood to have his recommendations on national defence relative to the army already mapped out. In reply to a question during the recent crisis with Germany as to whether, if Congress should be assembled immediately, he could ask the legislators at once for what he wanted he said that he could do so.

Both Secretary Garrison and Secretary Daniels will see the President next week to discuss the programmes which will hold a joint conference with Mr. Wilson on national defence.

President Wilson received to-day a telegram from the American Defence Society, pledging support to his plans.

"Your Excellency's call for a definite programme for submission to Congress based upon expert opinion in the army and navy," said the message, "deserves united endorsement of the country to arouse the public and its representatives in Congress to the need of an adequate army and navy as outlined in your statement. We pledge our unremitting support."

The Navy League made public tonight its endorsement of Mr. Wilson's course, in the form of a letter to the President, from A. H. Dadman, secretary of the league, which says:

"It is evident that we cannot secure the navy that we need in one year, and therefore a consistent and progressive development of the navy, covering a period of years, should, as you say,

## THREE BRITISH SHIPS BELIEVED SUNK

### One Vessel Owned by Firm of Mayor of San Francisco.

London, Sept. 3.—One British vessel is known to have been sunk to-day by a German submarine and two others are believed to have been torpedoed.

The Roumanie, of 1,638 tons, was sent to the bottom either by a torpedo or a mine. The British ship William J. Lewis, owned by Hind, Rolph & Co., of San Francisco, of which firm Mayor James Rolph, Jr., of San Francisco, is a member, was fired on, and is believed to have been sunk off Queenstown. The captain and crew abandoned the vessel before she went down, and were picked up by the Danish motor ship Australia. There was no loss of life on any of the vessels sunk."

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## Samuel Hopkins Adams

WISKEY concerns (and their patrons) will be interested in hearing how easily "non-refillable" bottles can be refilled with any harmless beverage, to say nothing of vicious, low-priced "licker." Adams explains in to-morrow's Tribune how simply it was done with several standard brand bottles advertised as impregnable.

### The Sunday Tribune

First to Last—The Truth: News · Editorials · Advertisements

## Germans Threaten Riga; Grodno an Empty Shell; No Hope of Peace Seen

### BRITAIN'S STAND ENDS ALL HOPE OF PEACE SOON

### Insistence on Removal of "German Menace" Blocks Action Now.

## PRESIDENT UNABLE TO OFFER SERVICE

### Must Be Assured That Belligerents Are "Receptive" Before He Can Act.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]  
Washington, Sept. 3.—Any possibility that President Wilson would make any move toward peace in Europe at this time is believed to have been dispelled this afternoon. An authoritative statement that there would be no such action till the United States receives information that its good offices will be welcomed by both sides was almost coincident with London dispatches saying that England would not discuss peace on any other terms than those of Premier Asquith's Guildhall speech. This speech made the destruction of the "German menace" the one condition on which Great Britain would insist.

The State Department, however, will learn the attitude of all the belligerents and has telegraphed to its diplomatic representatives in each country the substance of the Pope's proposals as communicated by Cardinal Gibbons to President Wilson and Secretary Lansing yesterday. The ambassadors and ministers have been asked to sound out the feeling in the countries to which they are accredited and to learn if possible the minimum terms that would be accepted in each case.

While neither the President nor the Secretary of State would divulge the nature of the plea offered by Cardinal Gibbons, it is generally believed here that the Pope decided on it after learning of the attitude of the German allies, with whom he recently exchanged notes, and that this government the terms on which Germany and Austria would be willing to make peace.

Terms to Prove Discussion.

These terms, as already outlined from Berlin, are believed to be the excess of what Germany would be inclined to accept, and to have been offered chiefly to provoke discussion and thus ascertain the attitude of the enemies of Germany. Officials say that for the quadruple entente to intervene in the war, Germany must be induced to approach any of the allied powers, without the knowledge and consent of the others would indicate a lack of faith in their alliance and in their agreement not to conclude peace separately.

American diplomatic representatives in the capitals of Europe they will be compared, and an effort will be made to find some common point of agreement on which to base a general appeal for a discussion of peace terms. Officials generally do not hold forth great hopes that the peace will be found in this way, but believe that all will claim concessions from their enemies which would be patently unacceptable.

Means "Bury the Hatchet."

The practical certainty that Germany regards the United States as the natural mediator was considered an excellent indication that the Berlin government has completely recovered from the unsympathetic attitude that marked the months following the Lusitania affair.

The final settlement of the submarine controversy, "it puts the last nail," one official said, "in the coffin in which we are about to bury the hatchet."

The Arabic case has been dropped almost completely from official discussion. Although, formally speaking, the controversy over the destruction of the Maine has not even been settled, Washington considers the case settled. The German Government has virtually granted the principle for which the United States has contended. It is believed that the minor details of indemnity, which officials think will be left to arbitration.

## ALLIES HEM IN BIG TURK FORCE

### Athens Dispatch Declares Surrender Is Now Imminent.

Paris, Sept. 3.—An important part of the Turkish forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula has been surrounded by the Allies, and its surrender is imminent, says an Athens dispatch to the Four-nier Agency.

Berlin, Sept. 3. (by wireless to Sayville, Long Island). "Telegrams from Sofia," says the Overseas News Agency to-day, "state that off the entrance to the Dardanelles a British transport struck a mine and sank, with 320 officers, 1,250 soldiers and 300 members of the crew, all of whom were drowned. Six hundred bodies were recovered."

The British government officially announced on August 17 that the British transport Royal Edward had been sunk off the entrance to the Dardanelles by a German submarine. The number of troops on board was given as 1,350, with 220 officers and men of the crew, and it was stated that about 600 were saved.

In the absence of a date for the sinking of the transport reported through Sofia it is uncertain whether this refers to the sinking of the Royal Edward or to the loss of another transport by the British.

## Turks Are Down-Hearted; Fear Defeat of Germany

Paris, Sept. 3.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Bucharest dated September 1 says:

"Constantinople telegrams say that the Committee of Union and Progress is beginning to have doubts as to the final victory of Germany, and is considering the consequences of defeat. It has given orders that Greeks and Bulgarians be treated with all consideration. Other foreigners, including belligerents, are closely watched, but are not being molested."

"No more German artillery engineer officers are arriving, and attempts are being made to train Turkish officers to replace them. These attempts are meeting with but little success."

The great fear in Turkish official circles is that Bulgaria will refuse the agreement proposed, and that Germany will fail in her negotiations with Rumania for the transit of munitions. The opinion in Constantinople generally inclines to pessimism.

## MAINE RELICS LIE ON RUBBISH DOCK

### Were Gift of U. S. to Cuban Government to Deck Memorial Monument.

Havana, Sept. 3.—The greater part of four years has elapsed since the American Congress presented to the Cuban government the after turret and guns of the old battleship Maine, which was sunk in Havana harbor, to form the feature part of a monument to be erected in Havana in memory of the American sailors who lost their lives in the disaster.

Since the gift was made the relics have been piled up on the rubbish dock, where they were placed when the bulk of the battleship was raised. To-night "La Noche" says the Battleship Maine Commissioners have decided to request the Cuban government to return the turret and guns for shipment to the United States. Cuba having shown no disposition to erect the memorial beyond selecting the site, on which later was built a stadium which was intended to be used for the Johnson-Willard prize fight.

A Havana dispatch in December, 1913, said a movement was on foot to erect a provisional monument in the yard of Punta Castle, at the entrance to the harbor, in commemoration of the Maine disaster, and that on it the turret and guns of the Maine were to be placed. "After, when the condition of the public treasury warranted, it was stated, a splendid permanent monument would be raised."

No member of the government, however, would allow himself to be quoted in discussion of the peace rumors.

A high British official made the following statement to The Tribune correspondent to-day regarding Germany's peace maneuvers in the United States:

"Our attitude toward peace has not changed in the slightest degree from the terms stated in Premier Asquith's Guildhall speech on November 9. We won't consider any peace unless it is based on the restoration of Belgium, France freed from Germans, with Al-

## Britain Denies Share in Move for Peace

[By Cable to The Tribune.]  
London, Sept. 3.—In high official circles here it is learned that the peace rumors current since the beginning of the week have no foundation in any step taken by the British government or in any statement issued here from authoritative sources.

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## DES MOINES AT CRETE

### U. S. Cruiser Reaches Cana with Refugees from Palestine.

Paris, Sept. 3.—A dispatch to "Le Matin" from Cana, Crete, filed yesterday, says:

"The United States cruiser Des Moines, bringing 534 refugees, mostly French, from Jaffa, Palestine, was given an enthusiastic reception by the people of this city when she arrived here to-day."

## Teutons Capture Fort Guarding Line on the Dvina.

### CZAR'S FORCES FACE NEW TRAP

### Crossing of River Would Mean Flanking of Russians.

### TAKE FEW PRISONERS

### Germans Get Only 400 in Grodno—Defenders Rally North of Vilna.

London, Sept. 3.—The Germans claim to have carried by assault the fortified bridgehead at Lennewa, on the Dvina River, between Friedrichstadt and Riga. This is considered the most critical point on the Russian front, for should the Germans succeed in crossing the Dvina the Czar's troops would be compelled to evacuate Riga, and their positions between the Dvina and Vilna and even southwest of the latter city would be jeopardized.

The Germans do not yet claim that they have crossed the river, defended by a reinforced army under command of General Ruzsky, who has proved himself one of the greatest strategists of the war and who brought the previous German advance on Warsaw to a stop on the Buzna River.

Military critics believe that the Russians will make a stubborn defence on the Dvina. Should they fall here the German fleet would gain command of the Gulf of Riga, and by landing troops at Pernau considerably shorten the march to Petrograd, which is understood to be the ultimate objective of the German higher command.

Russians Rally Above Vilna.

In view of the importance of the battle raging along the lower Dvina, the fighting elsewhere loses some of its interest, for wherever they are the Russians must keep their eyes on the north. Grodno, the last of the western fortresses which the Russians evacuated, apparently proved an empty shell to the Germans, as they captured only 400 prisoners after street fighting.

To the northwest of Vilna the Russians are on the offensive, and while the Germans declare that the Russian counter attacks have been a complete failure, it is said in Petrograd that the counter offensive seriously threatens the German left flank and communications with the army of Lieutenant General von Eichhorn.

The Russian centre is still retiring through the marshy districts, taking a toll of their pursuers every day. The Russians are offering resistance to the Austro-German offensive in Galicia, and southeastward of Lusk they hold a front of some fifty miles, intersected by hills, woods and rivers, which afford a splendid cover for a defensive army.

Plans Still in Doubt.

There is still some doubt as to what the Austro-German intentions are in the southeast. Military critics are divided as to whether there will be an advance on Kiev or whether an attempt will be made to project a wedge between the Russian armies and Rumania, which would make it a serious matter for the Rumanians to refuse longer the German demands for a free passage of munitions over Rumanian railways, which was held by infantry reported to be very short of shells.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

The Berlin official statement says:

Army Group of Field Marshal von Hindenburg: Our cavalry carried by assault the fortified bridgehead at Lennewa, northwest of Friedrichstadt, which was held by infantry of the enemy. Yesterday they took prisoners three officers and 350 men, and captured one machine gun.

On the battle front northwest and west of Vilna the Russians attempted to arrest our victorious advance. Their counter-attack was a complete failure, and cost them extraordinarily heavy losses. Southeast of Merv the enemy suffered a severe reverse.

Between the Augustow Canal and Swielowoz our troops reached the Niemen.

At Grodno our assaulting party succeeded in crossing the Niemen and fighting hard, won its way out of the marshy district north of Prusany.

Army Group of Field Marshal von Mackensen: During the pursuit of the enemy we made ourselves masters of the Jaisdla River at Sinek, Bereza, Kaskue, and in the region of Antopol. Austro-Hungarian forces